



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1520-6122

FRIDAY
MARCH 19, 2004
VOL. 51 NO. 23

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were unchanged. The market tone was steady entering the weekend. Demand was slow to good, best where features were planned for next week. Supplies ranged adequate to at times ample with mediums in the longest position. Breaking stock supplies were closely balanced to sufficient for the light to moderate demand. Breaking schedules were normal to reduced. Light type fowl were mostly adequate for the fair to moderate demand. Processing schedules were usually normal for the upcoming week.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL EGG All prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Retail demand mixed, slow to good with some feature activity scheduled for the next few weeks. Food service movement light to moderate. Supplies were adequate to ample with mediums in the longest position.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	IA-MN-WI Prices paid to producers.	Range	Mostly
EXTRA LARGE	114-123	118-120	LARGE	97-104	99
LARGE	114-122	116-119	MEDIUM	83-87	85
MEDIUM	100-106	103-105	SMALL	49-51	

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV,Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally steady entering the weekend. Demand into all channels ranged light to instances fairly good. Supplies were adequate to available for trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were barely adequate to adequate for the moderate demand. Schedules were reported as reduced to normal. Spent hens were generally sufficient for the fair to moderate demand. Processing schedules were mostly normal.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120-134	123-126
LARGE	115-129	120-124
MEDIUM	101-114	106-108

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL EGG Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was generally steady. Retail demand moderate to good with feature activity planned for the next few weeks. Food service movement was mostly moderate to fairly good. Supplies were adequate to available with mediums in the longest position. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were slightly more available. Most buyers purchasing on a need basis only. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment cautiously steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120.5-129	122-125
LARGE	119.5-128	121-124
MEDIUM	103.5-112	105-108

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices were unchanged. The market tone was generally steady entering the weekend. Demand into all outlets was light to moderate, slightly better where features were in progress or planned for next week. Supplies were sufficient to available with mediums in the longest position. Breaking stock supplies were barely adequate to adequate for the moderate demand. Light type fowl were usually sufficient for the fair to moderate demand. Processing schedules were reported as mostly normal for the upcoming week.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	104.25-130	124-127
LARGE	102.25-128	122-125
MEDIUM	90.25-111	104-108

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN, and Southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NEW YORK EGGS Prices entered the weekend unchanged on all sizes. The market tone remained steady. Demand was light to instances good. Supplies were adequate to available for present trade requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	129-133
LARGE	127-131
MEDIUM	113-117

CHICAGO AND MIDWEST EGGS Prices were unchanged. The market tone was steady. Retail demand was moderate to good, best for features. Food service movement was moderate. Supplies were adequate.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120-128	122-124
LARGE	119-127	120-123
MEDIUM	105-114	108-110

WESTERN REGION EGG Prices unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady with asking prices for next week unchanged on all sizes throughout the region. Retailer demand light. Offerings easily adequate.

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady with asking prices for next week unchanged on all sizes. Retailer demand light. Floor stocks heavy in anticipation of the coming Easter rush with additional offerings easily adequate. Small benchmark price 122. Ads in Southern California: smaller outlets-large dozen 69, limit one, one day special.

CALIFORNIA California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	167
EXTRA LARGE	166
LARGE	157
MEDIUM	142

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	148-156
EXTRA LARGE	146-154
LARGE	144-147
MEDIUM	129-132

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	299-399
EXTRA LARGE	289-359
LARGE	239-349
MEDIUM	199-289

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Breaking stock prices were unchanged to half a cent lower with checks and undergrades unchanged when compared to previously reported prices. Offerings were slightly more available than earlier in the week and were rated as adequate to closely balanced. Demand was cautious as many buyers bought on an as needed only basis. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment cautiously steady.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	91-93.5	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	80-86	80-82
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Prices were unchanged when compared to early week trading. The undertone was steady with traders closely monitoring further market developments. Floor stocks were barely adequate to adequate for reduced to normal breaking schedules. Demand was moderate, but unaggressive. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 13-Mar-2004 were 2% less than the previous week, however 3% higher than the same week a year ago.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	90-94	91-93
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	76-83	78-82
EASTERN REGION AREA:		
AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV		

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - W/E 13-MAR-04

	(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)					
	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED
CW	1,167,965	28,880	10,633	5,989	2,371	4,140
PW	1,184,079	29,179	10,820	6,342	2,418	4,156
LY	1,119,153	28,985	9,562	5,183	1,822	4,117
% CHG PW	-1	-1	-2	-6	-2	0
% CHG LY	4	0	11	16	30	1
2004	11,596,688	273,854	111,945	62,735	26,658	40,884
2003	11,183,360	270,428	102,368	56,726	24,977	41,498
% CHG YTD	4	1	9	11	7	-1

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE-	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	42.50	42.65	42.75
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	38.96	39.14	39.07

NATIONAL LIQUID Pasteurized whites reported at 83 cents fob with pasteurized salt yolk reported from 56 to 66 cents fob. Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady for whole egg and steady to fully steady for whites and yolk. Demand was mostly fair to instances good for all liquid products with committed yolk sales showing much improvement. Offerings were adequate to in close balance for all liquid products. Breaking stock prices were unchanged when compared to the previous week.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00AM non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	14	81-82	81.71	.62
WHITES	5	77-78	77.40	-.30
YOLKS	5	61-62	61.80	-.60

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Majority prices were irregular on whites unchanged on whole, and unchanged to higher on yolks when compared to the previous week's trading. Trade sentiment was mostly steady but improved on yolks, balance of items were at least steady. Demand and trading was generally unaggressive as buyers purchase on a as needed basis. Supplies were tight to short on whites, close balance on whole, and slightly improved but adequate on yolks. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 13 March 2004 were 2% less than the previous week, but 6% more than last year. Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb containers)

	TRUCKLOTS (MIN. 25 CONT.)		
	RANGE	MOSTLY	RANGE
WHOLE	78-94	87-89	96-100
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		97-110
WHITES	88-92	89-91	94-99
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	73-81	75-78	81-92
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	71-78	72-76	78-83

(/)- Whole plus yolk plus sweetener, generally 20-32% egg solids.

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Frozen whole egg prices ranged irregular with whites unchanged to 1 cent lower. Sugared yolk ranged unchanged with salted yolk 1 cent higher. Trade sentiment was generally steady with caution noted for all frozen products. Demand had tapered for whole egg, whites, and sugared yolk with salted yolk demand improving. Most buyers were anticipating lower prices in the near future and were buying accordingly. Offerings were adequate to balanced. Breaking stock prices were unchanged when compared to last week's reported prices.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	TRUCKLOTS	
	RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	87-92	89
WHITES	89-92	90-92
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-78	78
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	72-75	

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices unchanged. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 3/13 was 13% more than the previous week. Frozen demand good with freezer stocks light. Wholesale selling prices, f.o.b. shipping point (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.)	
	RANGE	
WHOLE	95-98	
WHITES	94-97	
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	81-84	
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	79-82	

NATIONAL DRIED EGG REPORT Majority prices were unchanged on yolks, unchanged to higher on blends, and sharply higher on whole and albumen when compared to a week earlier. Trucklot trading was limited on albumen but firm. Demand was moderate although most buyers were limiting purchases to immediate needs. Trade sentiment was fully steady on albumen, steady on whole, and some improvement was noted on yolks. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending 13 March 2004 were 2% less than the previous week, but 30% more than last year, The total year to date dried eggs produced were 7% more than a year ago.

Wholesale selling prices, dollars per lb., in containers, trucklot & less-than-trucklot volumes.

WHOLE	3.17-3.65	MOSTLY	3.35-3.55
YOLKS	1.60-2.10	MOSTLY	1.65-1.75
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	6.65-7.35	MOSTLY	7.00-7.15
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	2.00-2.55	MOSTLY	2.10-2.25

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MAR 12, 2004-MAR 18, 2004

CURRENT LOADS 49.00 FUTURE LOADS 45.00 TOTAL LOADS 94.00

CLASS	SE		NE		MW		LOADS	CLASS	SC		NW		SW		LOADS
	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	98.50	107.39	99.42	100.63	100.00	103.00	36.00	GNR W 1	100.00	106.20	—	—	—	114.50	10.00
GNR W 2	—	108.00	—	—	—	—	1.00	GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00
GNR W 4	—	—	—	83.00	78.00	—	1.00	GL W J	104.08	—	—	—	—	110.85	4.50
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	118.00	8.00
GL W J	—	—	—	100.00	100.33	—	1.50	GL W LG	—	115.67	—	127.94	—	125.61	21.00
GL W XL	—	122.75	109.84	114.03	111.11	—	28.50	GL W MD	94.00	99.71	—	—	—	104.63	10.25
GL W LG	—	120.83	109.83	111.80	119.08	114.00	44.25	NRBS - 50	—	94.00	—	—	—	—	2.00
GL W MD	104.00	103.14	92.00	94.75	92.78	90.67	18.50								
GL W SM	—	—	61.50	63.00	—	—	1.00								
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	—	113.00	.75								
NRBS - 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00								
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	92.50	—	94.67	2.00								
NRBS - 42	—	—	—	—	79.50	81.00	1.00								

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL
WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS
(INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER
CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to moderate. Offerings of spend fowl were generally sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Opinions on removal cost were steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST 0-12 9-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was generally unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate for usually adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST TOO FEW TO REPORT

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Removal prices were unchanged to slightly higher. Offerings were adequate with demand light to moderate. Opinions of value were generally steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST 7-10 7-8

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules moderate. Offerings adequate.

SHELL EGGS-COMBINED REGIONAL

AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	124.50	122.00	107.00
SOUTHEAST	125.50	123.50	106.00
MIDWEST	119.00	117.50	104.00
SOUTH CENTRAL	123.50	122.50	106.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	123.11	121.40	105.90

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations.

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were generally unchanged on both light and heavy canners when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate to at least moderate on lights; fair to moderate on heavies. Trading was light to fair on heavy canners. Available offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was at least steady on light canners; steady to at least steady on heavies.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
22-30.5 MAJORITY 25-26	31.5-37.5 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
25-32 MAJORITY 27-27.5	32.5-39 MAJORITY 36.75-37.5

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 13-Mar-04
(PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	1,344	1,165	2,509
LAST WEEK	1,129	1,250	2,379
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,558	1,356	2,914
TO-DATE/2004	12,737	12,646	25,383
TO-DATE/2003	16,627	13,644	30,271

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	377	0	377
LAST WEEK	78	0	78
SAME WEEK YR AGO	190	3	193
TO-DATE/2004	2,371	29	2,400
TO-DATE/2003	3,344	49	3,393

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, PLTRY DEVELOPMENT DIV.

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	1,721	1,165	2,886
LAST WEEK	1,207	1,250	2,457
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,748	1,359	3,107
TO-DATE/2004	15,108	12,675	27,783
TO-DATE/2003	19,971	13,693	33,664

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

	Week Ending March 6, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003	2002
LIQUID	239	103	1,310	1,773
FROZEN	0	0	0	0
DRIED	0	0	97	84
TOTAL	239	103	1,407	1,857

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

	Week Ending March 6, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003	2002
LIQUID	133	43	984	1,260
FROZEN	42	193	200	725
DRIED	0	0	515	160
TOTAL	175	236	1,699	2,145

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

	Week Ending March 6, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003	2002
JUMBO	0	0	50	0
EXTRA LARGE	1,200	0	2,160	150
LARGE	1,500	480	9,093	5,203
MEDIUM	750	1,590	6,030	5,764
UNGRADED	2,208	0	13,488	1,470
MISC	0	720	0	732
TOTAL	5,658	2,790	30,821	13,319

Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - (INCL GOVT STOCKS)

SELECTED STGE CENTERS (IN THOUSANDS)		FREGS LBS	TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM	03/15/04	3,219	174,570	39,884
AM	03/01/04	3,548	169,441	39,330
CHG		-329	5129	554
PCT CHG		-9%	3%	1%

MONTHLY COLD STORAGE REPORT

(In Units of 1,000)

FROZEN EGGS:

Monthly Cold Storage Report

	31-Jan	31-Jan	28-Feb	29-Feb
	2003	2004	2003	2004
FROZEN EGGS:				
Whites	1,818	2,870	2,571	2,900
Yolks	924	1,149	1,169	1,122
Whole & Mixed	8,778	12,423	9,463	13,914
Unclassified	3,820	4,862	3,924	3,207
Total Frozen Eggs	15,340	21,304	17,127	21,143

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS W/E 13-Mar-04

SELECTED	CW	PW	PCT CHG	
CONSUMING CENTERS	THOUSANDS		PW	LY
ATLANTA	28.4	29.5	-4	45
BOSTON	3.3	3.3	0	-6
CHICAGO	61.0	82.5	-26	14
DETROIT	24.4	27.8	-12	-13
KANSAS CITY	12.2	5.3	130	198
LOS ANGELES	89.9	91.1	-1	3
NEW ORLEANS	7.5	6.5	15	-41
NEW YORK	29.3	29.4	0	-9
ST. LOUIS	16.3	17.9	-9	-4
SAN FRANCISCO	20.5	21.8	-6	-7
TOTAL	292.8	315.1	-7	5
4 WK MVG AVG	303.9			

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 13-Mar-04

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
		PW	LY
N. ATLANTIC	226.8	2	2
E.N. CENTRAL	592.8	4	5
W.N. CENTRAL	287.1	3	0
S. ATLANTIC	184.4	5	2
S. CENTRAL	99.9	0	0
WEST	185.2	-7	0
TOTAL	1576.2	2	2
MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING		85	85

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT Mar 16, 2004

PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE MOSTLY	156	150	122	85
	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE MOSTLY	149-153	143-147	115-119	77-81
	151-152	145-146	117-118	79-80
RHODE ISLAND MOSTLY	155-159	149-153	121-125	84-88
	155	149	121	84
VERMONT MOSTLY	156-159	150-153	122-125	-
	159	153	125	-

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS,**POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats,
	Fax	(202)720-2403	Chief
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman,
	Fax	(404)562-5875	Officer-in-Charge
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown,
	Fax	(601)965-4661	Southern States Area Supervisor
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins,
	Fax	(515)284-4468	Officer-In-Charge
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Los Angeles, CA	Voice	(213)534-1330	Jim Derby,
	Fax	(213)534-1333	Officer-in-Charge
	Recorded	(213)534-1335	